

my colleagues will join me recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Tony Martin's approach to leadership is formulated in his fervent belief in the concept of teamwork, as demonstrated by his track record as a healthcare executive.

A 20-year veteran of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, HHC, the largest municipal healthcare system in the United States, Mr. Martin was appointed chief operating officer of Queens Hospital Center, QHC, in July 1999 and executive director in 2002. Under his direction, the hospital successfully completed the construction and opening of a new state-of-the-art facility in January 2002, which has since expanded to a total of 243 beds. In the spring of 2005, QHC volunteered to be one of the first city hospitals to undergo an unannounced Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, JCAHO, survey, successfully completing the rigorous 4-day examination. This acknowledges the hospital's firm compliance with regulatory JCAHO standards at all times.

His overriding mission has been to make Queens Hospital Center the hospital of choice in the borough, and to broaden its appeal beyond the traditional populations within its surrounding community. Specific initiatives include a comprehensive disease management initiative that empowers patients to manage their chronic illnesses, as well as an overall redesign of the hospital's ambulatory care services to better expedite patient visits.

Managing an annual operating budget of \$230 million, Mr. Martin currently oversees three Centers of Excellence within the hospital for Cancer Care; Women's Health; and Diabetes. For the past 3 years, he has aggressively promoted the technological advancement of the Queens Cancer Center of Queens Hospital, his objective being to present it as the premier cancer care facility in the borough. In addition, a new Ambulatory Care Pavilion is scheduled to open its doors in 2006, and a total of four family health centers affiliated with QHC are now offering comprehensive primary care services within the hospital's neighboring communities.

From April 1998 until July 1999, Mr. Martin served as deputy executive director of Network Behavioral Health for the Brooklyn/Staten Island Network of HHC, including Kings County Hospital Center, East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Sea View Hospital and Nursing Home, Dr. Susan Smith McKinney, and Bedford-Stuyvesant Alcoholism Treatment Center.

Prior to his Network position, Mr. Martin was the executive director of East New York Neighborhood Family Care Center, ENYNFCC, in Brooklyn from 1990 to 1998. Under his leadership, ENYNFCC successfully received its article 28 designation from the New York State Department of Health in 1993, and became the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center, ENYDTC. He was the administrator for the Medical Records Department at Kings County Hospital and previously the acting director of Medical Records at Metropolitan Hospital, both of which are HHC facilities.

Mr. Martin recently served, along with other esteemed African-American leaders, as the healthcare executive on a regional panel addressing the current state of the African-American male. He was a delegate for the Health

and Human Services, HHS-International Conference on Ethnic Health. He has received numerous awards for community service, most recent among them the Center for the Women of New York's "Good Guy" Award, 2004, the Metropolitan New York Association of Diabetes Educators "CEO of the Year" Award, 2004, and the NAHSE Award from the National Association of Health Service Executives, an organization of leaders in the healthcare field, 2002. Professional memberships are sustained with the following organizations: the Health Association of New York State, HANYS, East New York-Brownsville H.I.V. Steering Committee; New York Association of Ambulatory Care; Community Health Care Association of New York State, CHCANYS; National Association of Public Hospitals, NAPH; and the American Hospital Association, AHA.

Mr. Martin holds a master's degree in health service administration and policy from the New School for Social Research in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Antonio D. Martin, as he offers his talents for the betterment of our local and international communities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CESAR E. CHAVEZ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cesar Estrada Chavez. Seventy-nine years ago one of the greatest civil rights leaders of our time was born near Yuma, Arizona. A man that embodied the strength to fight for civil rights, Cesar Chavez dedicated his life to the liberty and justice of farm workers across America.

Mr. Chavez dedicated his life to teaching others that persistence, hard work, faith, and willingness to sacrifice one's self breaks down barriers. He committed himself to achieving justice and equality for all farm workers and paved the way for momentous social change.

Mr. Chavez began early in his life dealing with injustice and inequality; his family was forced off their land and subjected to working in fields all over California. He attended 37 schools, never succeeding past the eighth grade. Despite his tribulations, he was able to instill his passion for education in the hearts of all that he touched. Mr. Chavez taught that the love for justice is inherent in each and every one of us and that it is the most amazing and true part of being human.

In 1962, Mr. Chavez put his beliefs into action and formed what is known today as the United Farm Workers. His efforts initiated one of the greatest social movements of our time; fighting for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing and the outlaw of child labor for farm workers everywhere.

Mr. Chavez embraced nonviolent tactics to help focus national attention on the problems that existed for farm workers. The non-violent tactics Mr. Chavez utilized included fasting, marching, rallying, picketing and boycotting. The vast attention that was drawn to the plight of the farm workers educated America of the

great pain and exploitation the farm workers endured to produce food for millions of American families.

Mr. Chavez was said to have given his last ounce of strength defending the farm workers before he died in his sleep on April 23, 1993.

Cesar E. Chavez is honored throughout America for his tireless work to help those that could not help themselves. In my hometown of Houston, every year we celebrate the life and times of Mr. Cesar E. Chavez by holding a Hispanic Pride parade. An event sponsored by the community and an event to bring us together and celebrate as one.

We honor him today in life and in death for his leadership, his vision, his bravery, and his unselfish commitment to the principles of social justice and respect for human dignity. He will forever live on as an inspiration to those of us who seek to create a better world, and his legacy is one which serves to remind us that "Together all things are possible." Si se puede!

A TRIBUTE TO KATHIE T. RONES M.D., M.P.H., FACP

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished physician, Dr. Kathie T. Rones. It is an honor to represent Dr. Rones in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rones is currently the Medical Director at Kings County Hospital Center a position she has held since 1996. Dr. Rones manages a staff of over a thousand doctors and hundreds of residents. As the busiest trauma in the State of New York, King's County has a minimum of 120,000 emergency room visits a year.

Dr. Rones is a Senior Clinical Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Medicine at SUNY Downstate. Prior to her appointment as Medical Director, Dr. Rones served as Chief of Ambulatory Care Services and Director of the Medical Clinic at King's County and more recently as the Medical Director of Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center-Ambulatory Care Network. Dr. Rones went to Medical School at Brown University and earned her M.D. in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and selfless service of Dr. Rones as she continues to offer her selfless health services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the actions of altruistic community leaders such as Dr. Kathie T. Rones.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TRUEMAN KIRK PEEK

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Trueman Kirk Peek.